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serious student, the book is attractive in many ways, being well illustrated and rather cleverly written. It may thus serve a useful purpose in helping to popularize the conservation idea.

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*A Documentary History of American Industrial Society.* Volumes VII and VIII, *Labor Movement, 1840-1860.* Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS. (Cleveland: A. H. Clark Co. 1910. Pp. 364, 346. \$50 for set of ten volumes.)

The interesting collection of documents brought together in these two volumes of the *Documentary History* is as kaleidoscopic and varied as was the labor movement during the years 1840-1860. Selections are quoted illustrative of the general economic and social conditions of the period, of Owenism and experiments in communism, of land reform and its relation to other reforms, of agitation and legislation respecting the hours of labor, and finally of labor organizations. The contents in their broad scope illustrate the history of American industrial society rather than that of the labor movement in the narrower sense. At first the multiplicity of topics and their apparent lack of connection is rather confusing to one who is trying to follow the thread of the labor movement through the maze of varied interests. For those who lived in the midst of the agitation, the reforms and experiments, and the failures and doubts, it must have taken a clear vision and a cool brain to maintain one's mental poise.

The confused picture thus presented becomes clearer when one realizes that there were really two movements during this period—one a broad, humanitarian reform movement which endeavored to ameliorate the condition of labor by reorganizing industrial society; and the other a narrower class struggle of the workers themselves—the labor movement in the narrower sense. Professor Commons has given rather more space to the former than to the latter of these, and has endeavored to show the relation between the various reforms and the labor movement. That the latter should have been all but submerged in the wave of socialism which swept over the country during the forties, when attempts were made in every part of the country to realize Fourier's scheme of communal living, is intelligible, and is fully substantiated by the documents. Less convincing is the connection

which the editor seeks to establish between the labor movement and land reform. That Evans, the able leader of the workingmen, advocated the freedom of the public lands for actual settlers, and that Greeley and the Industrial Congress endorsed the idea, does not constitute a sufficient proof that the homestead laws were the fruit of the labor movement of this period.

The selections dealing with the hours of labor, which was the first subject of labor legislation, and with labor organizations, seem more carefully chosen and arranged than the earlier sections of these volumes. Especially striking is the slowness of the early labor organizations to get down to business, to adopt a "class-conscious" attitude, and to confine their activities to improving the condition of their members. Again and again the workers were diverted by some ambitious scheme of social reform, or side-tracked by experiments with coöperation or other panacea. Not until 1853 did the modern trade-union, of a "pure and simple" type, emerge from the theorizing and experimentation of this period, and usher in the modern labor movement, with the definite purpose of a minimum wage and the closed shop, enforced by means of the strike.

For the student of social history these volumes contain invaluable material, which is moreover illuminated by the brilliant generalizations and telling phrases of Professor Commons's introductions. It is, however, unfortunate that no introduction should have been supplied to the section on land reform, as this topic especially needs elucidation. Brilliant as it is, too, an article on "Horace Greeley and the Working Class Origins of the Republican Party," scarcely seems an adequate introduction to these two important volumes. The selections end with 1854 (not 1860), and do not touch upon a number of topics that one usually associates with the labor movement of this period, but these defects will doubtless be made good in the concluding volumes.

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*The National Land System; 1785-1820.* By PAYSON JACKSON TREAT, Ph. D. (New York: E. B. Treat and Company. 1910. Pp. xii, 426.)

Notwithstanding the great importance of the public land policy of the United States, both as an economic system and as a basis